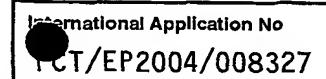
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER G11B27/10 G11B27/11 G11B19/12 G06F17/30 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G11B G06F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. US 6 252 831 B1 (WEHMEYER KEITH REYNOLDS) 1-9 26 June 2001 (2001-06-26) abstract column 1, line 43 - line 46 column 4, line 22 - line 30 column 1, line 27 - line 35 US 6 388 960 B1 (ENDO FUMIO ET AL) 1-9 14 May 2002 (2002-05-14) abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "P" document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 9 September 2004 21/09/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Valencia, E Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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